**The Fruit of Joy Is A Weapon**

What is Joy?

Both the natural world and the Kingdom of God have a definition of Joy. On the surface they may seem similar but there is a distinct difference.

**Here is how the natural world defines Joy:**

An emotion evoked by well-being, success, or good fortune or by the prospect of possessing what one desires.

**How does the word Joy translate in the old and new testament?**

Gladness, A cheerfulness that is calm, delight.

On the surface, not a huge difference but there is one thing that jumps out when looking at the two definitions. The word emotion is specifically used when defining Joy by the world's standard. Joy as scripture defines it, is more than an emotion. Joy is a fruit of the Spirit that is a part of your identity in Christ Jesus.

*Nehemiah 8:8-10 NLT*

*[8] They read from the Book of the Law of God and clearly explained the meaning of what was being read, helping the people understand each passage. [9] Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who were interpreting for the people said to them, "Don't mourn or weep on such a day as this! For today is a sacred day before the LORD your God." For the people had all been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law. [10] And Nehemiah continued, "Go and celebrate with a feast of rich foods and sweet drinks, and share gifts of food with people who have nothing prepared. This is a sacred day before our Lord. Don't be dejected and sad, for the joy of the LORD is your strength!"*

Definition from Strong’s Concordance and Brown-Driver-Briggs: a fortified place; place or means of safety, protection, refuge, stronghold

**Joy is protection**

*Romans 15:13 AMP*

*[13] May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing [through the experience of your faith] that by the power of the Holy Spirit you will abound in hope and overflow with confidence in His promises.*

**Joy is based on a Person not circumstance, Joy is based on my relationship with Him not my status in this natural life**

*Philippians 1:21 AMP*

*[21] For to me, to live is Christ [He is my source of joy, my reason to live] and to die is gain [for I will be with Him in eternity].*

**Joy provides endurance (protection against weariness)**

*Hebrews 12:1-3 AMP*

*[1] Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses [who by faith have testified to the truth of God's absolute faithfulness], stripping off every unnecessary weight and the sin which so easily and cleverly entangles us, let us run with endurance and active persistence the race that is set before us, [2] [looking away from all that will distract us and] focusing our eyes on Jesus, who is the Author and Perfecter of faith [the first incentive for our belief and the One who brings our faith to maturity], who for the joy [of accomplishing the goal] set before Him endured the cross, disregarding the shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God [revealing His deity, His authority, and the completion of His work]. [3] Just consider and meditate on Him who endured from sinners such bitter hostility against Himself [consider it all in comparison with your trials], so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.*